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Statewide information sharing explored by Squires

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Statewide information sharing explored by Squires

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Download the paper: [“Using Technology with Information Sharing Strategies to Connect State and Local Police Agencies in Utah “](#)



Keith Squires was interested in how his state and its local agencies could share information, and overcome some of the turf squabbles that sometimes among law enforcement agencies when it comes to hard-earned investigative facts.

Squires' course paper was titled “Using Technology with Information Sharing Strategies to Connect State and Local Police Agencies in Utah.” The paper looked at a method to enable information collection while allowing jurisdictions control over who could receive the information. The paper also led to Squires' thesis, Critical Accountability: Preventing and Interdicting Terrorist Activity in the U.S. by Effectively Utilizing State and Local Law Enforcement.”

1. The gist of the paper was to illustrate the need to share information on a regional and national basis, Squires said. He analyzed the use of a service bus, which is a system that routes information and directs the person who is querying in the appropriate direction for the information requested. That provides an alternative to a centralized database.

This method was useful in that addressed concerns of agencies that were leery of sharing information and losing control of that information. Using the service bus allowed control of who could get the information.

2. While a student, Squires was appointed by then-Gov. Jon Hunstman as Utah's homeland security director and the governor's homeland security advisor.

"I was able to incorporate my school work at NPS with this new job," Squires said.

His course paper tied into a project at his job as he was charged with establishing a state fusion center. Though the final product did not adopt the precise method outlined in his paper, the same type of concept was used in adopting a statewide information-sharing system (technology discussed in his paper was utilized for internal purposes at the Utah Department of Public Safety). Information derived from the center is a necessary part of intelligence-led policing in the state.

"At the fusion center it is a matter of using the same methodology," Squires said. "It's still a matter of not creating a central database, but being able to know where information is located and directing investigators so that they can access the information they want."

3. The fusion center in Utah has been operating for about 18 months. The center has nine state employees as well as an analyst and a protective security advisor from the Department of Homeland Security.

Local law enforcement agencies are becoming more involved, Squires said. Investigators from those local departments rotate in and out of the center through a course titled "Intelligence Liaison Coordinator." They take their training back to their home agency and serve as a liaison between their department and the fusion center.

Also, Squires has shared his thesis in Washington, D.C., as a model for information sharing among fusion center and various levels of law enforcement.

Associated file: [Using Technology with Information Sharing Strategies to Connect State and Local Police Agencies in Utah](#)

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